

# Discovery Group - Gospel Living

## Wealth

### **A**ccountability

Share how your obedience commitment from last week went, and who you shared with.

### **B**ible: 1 Timothy 6:17-19

Read *passage* aloud & someone retell in their own words

- What do we learn from this passage about God?
- What do we learn from this passage about people?

Read the *article* on the next page.

- How does our culture define success? How does this compare with a biblical understanding?
- What makes the love of money a “root of all kinds of evil?” What is significance about the contrast between contentment and the desire to be rich?
- What is “life that is truly life?” How do you take hold of it?

### **C**ommit

What is Jesus calling you to do in *obedience* this week?

Who can you *share* this with? Who can you reach out to in order to make disciples?

*Abide*: Read and meditate on the following passages this week:

1 Timothy 6:1-21    2 Corinthians 8-9

## Wealth

As we begin, first back up and read aloud all of 1 Timothy 6. This sets our passage in its wider context - and there is obviously a lot about wealth, simplicity, generosity, etc. At the same time, in a broader sense, this is about the totality of our lives and the big question of what are we living for.

God has put a desire for purpose inside all of us. We want our lives to count for something bigger than us. We know that God calls us to live for eternity rather than temporal pursuits. Yet, for many of us, our experience is that life gets full. Overcrowded even. Hectic. Stressful. When we do find a sliver of bandwidth in which to think about the future, our focus tends to be on personal security later in life, and perhaps on the inheritance we will leave behind. And, following the relentless pressure of our culture, both of these ideas revolve around money. After all, it is a tenet of the 'American Dream' to be able to retire early so that we can enjoy life, and if we do particularly well to leave a financial blessing for our children. However, while it is certainly responsible to plan for the future, this is not the focus of life for followers of Jesus. We cannot allow the world to redefine success for us, although it is tenacious in its efforts to do so.

In our passage, the wealthy are given two solemn warnings: to not be arrogant and to not put their hope in wealth. The rich in this world are universally tempted to think that they are more valuable than the poor - though this is often perhaps subconsciously. They come to think that they are smarter, know more, are more capable, should have more influence and power, etc. That is arrogance. They also tend to put their hope in money. They count on it for security, enjoyment, and even meaning and significance.

We have discussed "good works" in previous studies, and the rich are to be especially focused on them. This includes being generous - willing to give freely to those in need, and being willing to share - an attitude that makes personal possessions available to the community (as in Acts 2 & 4). There is a brief statement in v 17 that reveals something significant about the character of God. He "provides us with everything for our enjoyment." It is because of our trust in this that we can avoid the temptations of wealth.

So what is success? What gives meaning? What are we called to live for?

"For a Christian, true success involves matters of eternal significance. It involves producing a Godly heritage - passing on the faith to the next generation. It involves fulfilling the lifework to which God has called each of us. And it involves deeply investing in the life of a local church, making significant investments in the progress of the gospel, and laying a foundation with our lives that will count for eternity."<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Jeff Reed, Building for Future Generations, LearnCorp Resources, 1999, pg 6.